

channel off Weston in 1871, while apparently lying asleep on the surface of the water, the fishermen being able to row up to it. A cast was taken by Mr. Mable. The skull was also preserved; the teeth are large, lanceolate, and have a well-developed cusp on either side of their base.

SCYLLIUM CANICULA, Linn. The Lesser Spotted Dogfish.

ACANTHIAS VULGARIS, Risso.

These fishes are neither uncommon, especially during the Sprat season.

RAJA CLAVATA, Linn. The Thornback

RAJA BATIS, Linn. The Common Skate.

These are both found at Weston, but usually as immature examples.

PETROMYZON MARINUS, Linn. The Lamprey or Sea Lamprey.

P. FLUVIATILIS. The River-Lamprey or Lampern.

Both are taken at Weston.

P. BRANCHIALIS, Linn. Small Lamprey.

Has likewise been recorded from Somersetshire by Baker.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE LXI.

Pleuronectes elongatus, p. 755.

PLATE LXII.

Fig. 1. *Clupea pilchardus*, p. 759.

1 a. Stomach and caecal appendages of ditto.

2. *Clupea sprattus*, p. 760.

2 a. Air-bladder, stomach, and caecal appendages of ditto.

December 16, 1879.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1879:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November was 63, of which 4 were by birth, 16 by presentation, 22 by purchase, 13 were received on deposit, and 8 by exchange. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 74.

The most noticeable addition during the month of November was as follows:—

A fine example of the King Penguin (*Aptenodytes pennanti*),

purchased November 14th. This bird was in the uniform brown down plumage of the first year when it arrived, but has now nearly thrown off that dress, and attained the ordinary feathering. It is said to have been captured at Staten Island, Tierra del Fuego.

Mr. T. Jeffery Parker read a paper on the Intestinal Spiral Valve in the genus *Raia*. Mr. Parker showed that there were four types of valves exhibited in individuals of that genus, differing from one another in morphological characters, in the extent of absorption-surface presented to the food, and in the resistance offered to the passage of food.

This paper will be printed entire in the Society's 'Transactions.'

Mr. Seeböhm exhibited a small collection of birds made by Capt. the Hon. G. C. Napier in the valley of the Atreck river which flows into the Caspian Sea not far north of Asterabad, and forms the boundary line between Russia and Persia. The species were as follows:—

Falco cenchris, Cuv.

Coracias garrulus, Linn.

Pratincola caprata, Linn. [This species has not hitherto been found further west than Baluchistan, though it ranges eastward as far as the islands of the Malay archipelago.—*H. S.*]

Emberiza luteola, Lath. [Not hitherto found west of Turkestan.]

Emberiza hortulana, Linn. (♀).

Hypolais caligata, Licht.

Cypselus melba (Linn.). Shot on 12th April, flying in company with the Common Swift, at 3000 feet elevation.

Pterocles alchata (Linn.) Shot near Teheran, 26th September, at 4800 feet elevation.

Glareola pratincola (Linn.). Shot 10th May.

Botaurus stellaris (Linn.).

Ædicnemus scolopax (Gmel.). Shot 26th April at 3000 feet elevation.

Plegadis falcinellus (Linn.). Shot 26th May.

Phalaropus hyperboreus, Linn. Shot 25th May. [Doubtless on migration towards its breeding-grounds in the valley of the Petchora, where it arrives during the first or second week of June.—*H. S.*]

Mr. Sclater exhibited a small collection of birds from the island of Montserrat, West Indies, which had been prepared and kindly sent to him for examination by Mr. J. E. Sturge, of Plymouth, Montserrat.

As nothing was yet known of the ornithology of Montserrat, Mr. Sclater thought it desirable to record the names of the species.

<i>Local Name, as given by Mr. Sturge.</i>	<i>Scientific Name.</i>
1. "Thrush"	<i>Margarops densirostris.</i>
2. "Yellow-breasted Sparrow"	<i>Certhiola dominicana.</i>
3. "Sparrow"	<i>Phonipara bicolor.</i>
4. "Kingfisher"	<i>Ceryle alcyon.</i>
5. "Quaker-bird"	<i>Coccyzus minor.</i>
6. "Killie-Hawk"	<i>Tinnunculus sparverius.</i>
7. "Crab Gaulin"	<i>Ardea herodias.</i>
8. "White Gaulin"	<i>Ardea candidissima.</i>
9. "Waterwitch"	<i>Butorides virescens.</i>
10. "Blue Pigeon" or "Ramier"	<i>Columba corensis.</i>
11. "Mountain-Dove"	<i>Zenaida martinicana.</i>
12. "Partridge Dove"	<i>Geotrygon mystacea.</i>
13. "Coot"	<i>Gallinula galeata.</i>
14. "Diver"	<i>Podilymbus podiceps.</i>

Mr. Sclater observed that all these birds also occurred in the neighbouring islands of Barbuda, Antigua, and Guadeloupe, or one of them, as recorded by Mr. Lawrence in his articles on Mr. Ober's collections from these localities lately published in the 'Proceedings of the United-States National Museum.' At the same time it was highly desirable that further collections should be made in Montserrat, where it was quite possible that peculiar species would still be found amongst the Passeres.

[P.S. Jan. 30th, 1880.—Mr. Sturge has since sent me examples of three other species of birds from Montserrat—namely, *Loxigilla noctis*, *Elainea martinica*, and *Puffinus obscurus*,—and has kindly promised to continue his collections.—P. L. S.]

Mr. R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay exhibited a specimen of *Pericrocotus flammeus* in an abnormal state of plumage, and made the following remarks:—

"I have the pleasure of exhibiting a rather interesting specimen of *Pericrocotus flammeus*, which I obtained some years ago on the Neilgherry Mountains, in Southern India.

"Briefly speaking, the normal plumage of the adults of this species is red and black in the male, and yellow and grey in the female. The plumage of the young male is much like that of the adult female; and specimens are to be found in museums exhibiting every stage of the transition from the grey-and-yellow to the black-and-red dress. The peculiarity in this particular specimen, which is a male, is that it has entirely assumed the black plumage of the adult male without any attempt having been made to change the yellow into red; so that we have here a specimen, to all appearances adult, which is partly clothed in the dress of the male and partly in that of the female.

The following papers were read:—